



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
April 24, 2006

For More Information, Contact:
Heather Weaver, Manager
Immunization Program
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.3386
E-mail: hweaver@state.nd.us

Infant Immunization Week Observed in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is joining public and private health professionals across the state in observing *National Infant Immunization Week*, April 22 through 29, 2006. The theme of this year's event, which focuses on immunizing babies against 12 diseases by age 2, is *Love them. Protect them. Immunize them.*

“Vaccination is an act of love, and it is one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases and, in turn, protect the health of the community,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. “Because of vaccinations, millions of cases of disease, disability and death have been prevented.”

According to the Department of Health, infants age 19 months to 35 months are recommended to receive five vaccines that protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B and *Haemophilus influenzae* type B. In 2004, 82 percent of North Dakota infants age 19 months to 35 months were adequately immunized, compared to 80.9 percent nationwide. “Although these high immunization rates have resulted in record or near-record low levels of vaccine-preventable diseases, these rates need to be maintained and increased in order to prevent future diseases,” Dwelle said.

“The North Dakota Immunization program would like to thank health-care providers and parents for helping us protect our children against disease,” said Heather Weaver, Immunization Program manager for the Department of Health. “In 2005, the Department of Health assessed the immunization rates of 37 health-care providers. We would like to recognize the following providers that achieved 85 percent or better vaccine coverage for children younger than 2.” (Please note: Not all North Dakota providers are assessed each year.)

- Pediatric South Medical Arts – Minot
- Altru Clinic – Cavalier
- Center for Family Medicine – Minot

-- more --

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@state.nd.us

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

- Meritcare Southwest Pediatrics – Fargo
- Altru Health Clinic Pediatrics – Grand Forks
- Dakota Clinic Pediatrics – Fargo
- Altru Family Medicine Center – Grand Forks
- Pediatric North Medical Arts – Minot
- Mid Dakota Clinic – Bismarck
- Meritcare Medical Group – Fargo
- First Care Rural Health Clinic – Park River
- Medcenter One Q & R Pediatrics – Bismarck
- City-County Health Department – Valley City
- Foster County Health Department – Carrington
- Emmons County Health – Linton
- Wells County District Health Unit – Fessenden
- Indian Health Services – Belcourt
- Trenton Community Clinic – Trenton

For more information, contact Heather Weaver, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.3386.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.